(c) the details of steps taken to make available air-bus service at Indore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Indore airport has the following navigational and landing aids:—

Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR), Non-Directional Beacon (NDB), Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI) and runway/taxiway lights.

(b) and (c) This airport belongs to National Airports Authority. Present length of runway is 5600'. Runway length of 7500' is required to operate AB-320 without any pay load restrictions. To extend it to 7500', additional land of 28 acres outside the aerodrome premises is required. Extension of runway to 7500' thus depends on the availability of land.

[*English*]

Air India Flights to Gulf Countries

1795. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATIAN AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken or proposed by the Government to start flying full fleet of the Air India and to improve its utilisation;

(b) whether the Air India propose to maintain its schedule flights to gulf countries without abrupt cancellation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of Air India to operate all the scheduled flights on its network. However, in the recent past, services to the Gulf were disrupted due to the war in the Gulf region. The services to gulf are now being operated normally.

Posting of SC/ST in Khurda Road Division

1796. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts reserved for SCs and STs lying vacant in the Khurda Road division of South Eastern Railway at present; and

(b) the reasons for not filling those vacancies so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Railway Line Between Guwahati and Dibrugarh

1797. SHRI MURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to extend the broad gauge line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of State Electricity Boards

1798. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the State Electricity Boards: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.